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BOROUGH OF STAFFORD



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

1946

STAFFORD:

ALLISON & BOWEN, LTD., GREENGATE STREET

BOROUGH OF STAFFORD



ANNUAL REPORT

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1946

H. B. BINKS,

Medical Officer of Health.

IVOR O. WILLIAMS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

STAFFORD:

ALLISON & BOWEN, LTD., GREENGATE STREET

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN : ALDERMAN MERREY.

VICE-CHAIRMAN : COUNCILLOR J. C. EVANS.

Ald. Adamson.	Coun. Dobson.	Coun. Storer.
„ Owen.	„ Fowke.	„ Mrs. Welton.
Coun. Bream.	„ Jennings.	„ Mrs. Williams.
„ Mrs. Cotterill.	„ Joynes.	

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :
and Medical Officer Infant Welfare Centre :
*†H. B. BINKS, M.B., Ch.B. (Ed.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (Part-time) :

A. V. CAMPBELL, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER (Part-time) ;

MRS. E. KANDER, L.R.C.P. & S.

(Resigned September 4th, 1946).

T. B. D'COSTA, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

(From September 9th, 1946)

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR,

*I. O. WILLIAMS, Cert. R. San. Inst., and Certificated Meat Inspector.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS :

*A. F. WARD, Cert. S.I.B. and Certificated Meat Inspector.

(Resigned November 2nd, 1946)

*S. A. GREGORY, Cert S.I.B. and Certificated Meat Inspector.

(Resigned May 31st, 1946).

*K. A. SIMS, Cert., S.I.B.

(From December 2nd, 1946).

HEALTH VISITORS :

*MISS H. BIRCH, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. R.S.I.

*MRS. J. ODDY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert R.S.I., Cert. S.I.B.

*MISS R. M. BRADBURY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. R.S.I.

(From October 1st, 1946).

BURTON HOUSE MATERNITY HOME :

MATRON : MISS O. T. DAVIES, S.R.N., S.C.M.

RIVERSIDE DAY NURSERY :

MATRON : MISS F. E. BAZELEY, S.R.N.

(Resigned August 31st, 1946)

MRS. M. MOORHOUSE, S.R.N.

(From September 9th, 1946).

SENIOR CLERK : R. FOWELL.

CLERKS : G. E. SHEWARD.

(Resigned April, 15th, 1946).

MRS. H. N. JACKSON. MISS S. DENNIS.

(Resigned January 26th, 1946).

G. R. BANKS.

(From February 4th, 1946, to September 7th, 1946).

K. H. J. GREEN,

(From October 10th, 1946).

*Salaries contributed to under Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants. The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Superintendent of the Tithe Barn Hospital for the Mid-Staffs. Joint Hospital Board. All are whole time Officers, except the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and the Assistant Medical Officer. The Health Visitors devote a portion of their time to work under the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Board for Tuberculosis.

†Services of the Medical Officer of Health by arrangement are available to the County for School Medical Duties for four sessions per week.

BOROUGH HEALTH OFFICE,
5, MARTIN STREET,
STAFFORD.
July, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Public Health Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the 72nd Annual Report on the Health of Stafford. It is drawn up in accordance with the instructions contained in Ministry of Health Circular 13/47, dated 5th February, 1947.

In defiance of severe flooding in February and September, and extreme housing difficulties, the vital statistics point to a very favourable year from the Health point of view.

The favourable factors alluded to are :—(1) No maternal deaths. (2) Lowest Tuberculosis death rate ever. (3) Low death and average infant mortality rates. (4) No deaths of infants from Measles, Whooping Cough, and Diarrhoea. (5) Infectious disease notification was generally low, including Diphtheria, which was noticeable in that one adult only was notified as suffering from that disease.

The adverse factors were—a rather higher still-birth rate, and an increase of Ophthalmia cases, most of which were institutional.

These statistics prompt the question—Why such good figures in difficult times? It has been suggested that the provision of priority milk and eggs for expectant mothers and children, plus vitamins, and, above all, the lack of unemployment with improved purchasing power, were responsible.

The Sanitary Inspector reports on the successful use of the newer preparations for disinfestation (Page 36).

The year has seen a definite contribution towards the housing of the people, for in May, 1947, the Surveyor reports that 100 temporary bungalows and 74 permanent dwellings had been completed and let. Further, other houses were well advanced in construction.

Bookings continued to be heavy at the Maternity Home. Difficulties have been experienced all through the year in obtaining nursing and domestic staff, and in January, 1947, the Committee found it necessary to curtail the number of bookings on this account.

In 1946 61% of births took place in Maternity Homes and Institutions as against 14% in 1937. The convenience, and the many advantages attaining thereto, of mothers having their babies in a Maternity Home are many, and the increasing number of cases suggest that these are recognised. They do not, however, at the present time in my opinion warrant any mother following the popular trend if her home conditions are satisfactory and if temporary help can be obtained in the house during the confinement.

Other activities under the control of the Welfare Committee are dealt with in detail in the report, and all indicate progress.

During the year a scheme sponsored by the Women's Voluntary Services came to fruition. A private house, Glentworth, was purchased, and is being fitted out for the care of unmarried mothers pending their re-settlement. It is run locally by a voluntary committee, and will accommodate twelve mothers and their babies. (It was informally opened in June, 1947).

The report on the Care of Illegitimate Children (page 26) brings into prominence many of the difficulties which this work entails, especially as to babies of mixed parentage.

Thanks are due to you, Mr. Chairman, and the Members of the Committee for help and criticism during the past twelve months. To my colleagues and the Staff generally I wish to express appreciation and my indebtedness to them for their loyal support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. B. BINKS.

REPORT

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

General Statistics.

Area of Borough	5,089 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1946	35,250
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books	9,508*
Rateable value (31st March, 1946)	£220,835
Sum represented by a penny rate (1945– 1946)	£890

*The total of 9,508 inhabited houses is made up as follows :—

Houses	9,172
Farm houses	18
Shops with living accommodation	318

Social Conditions.

Mr. E. R. Arnold, Manager of the Employment Exchange, has supplied me with the following information :—

“Approximate numbers employed in the main industries, trades, and occupations in Stafford are as under :—

	Males	Females	Total
Electrical Engineering	4,500	1,200	5,700
Shoe Manufacture	500	700	1,200
General Engineering	1,400	300	1,700
Abrasive Wheel Manufacture ..	950	350	1,300
Wood Heel Manufacture	100	80	180
Distributive Trades	700	700	1,400
Building Trade	900	30	930
*Local Government Service (estimate only)	800	250	1,050
Sawmilling and Machine Wood-working	170	25	195
Concrete Reinforcement Manufacture	370	170	540
Salt Manufacture	250	50	300
Totals	10,640	3,855	14,495

*The figure of 1,050 for Local Government Service includes about 250 who are employed by the County Council in Stafford on County as distinct from local administration.

“Employment in the Stafford district is at a high level, and, subject to fuel cuts and an adequate supply of essential materials, is likely to remain so for some time. The shortage of manpower is likely to remain acute.”

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Registered live births :—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	636	299	337
Illegitimate	49	28	21
	685	327	358

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population).. .. 19.4
Stillbirths :—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	24	8	16
Illegitimate	2	2	—
	26	10	16

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)
 births 36
 Deaths :—

Males	..	..	..	204
Females	..	..	..	177

Total	381
-------	----	----	-----

Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated population) .. 10.8
 Principal causes of death, their number, and their
 percentage :—

	Number 1945	Number 1946	Percentage of whole
Heart Disease ..	95	98	25.6
Cancer	42	41	10.7
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, etc.	41	51	13.4
Tuberculosis (all forms)	16	10	2.6
Prematurity	9	12	3.1
Violence	10	10	2.6

Maternal Deaths :—

Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	0
Other maternal causes	..	..	0

Total	0
-------	----	----	---

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total live and still
 births) Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate ..	20	12	8
Illegitimate ..	7	6	1
	27	18	9

Infantile Death Rate (all infants per 1,000 live
 births) 39

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live
 births 31

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live
 births 142

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) .. 0

„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of
 age) 0

Births.—The total number of registered live births for the year was 685, 327 males and 358 females.

Of the 844 births taking place in the Borough, 205, or 24% of the total, were of non-residents. Births to Stafford residents which occurred outside the Borough numbered 46 leaving the net registered live births 685 as quoted above.

A table setting out the rates for the last ten years follows :—

Year	STAFFORD BOROUGH.				Birth Rate for Smaller Towns of England and Wales
	Total Births	Birth Rate	Total Still Births	Still Birth Rate	
1937 ..	467	14.8	18	38	15.3
1938 ..	493	15.3	14	27	15.4
1939 ..	516	15.8	20	37	15.0
1940 ..	540	15.3	13	23	14.6
1941 ..	596	15.8	24	39	14.2
1942 ..	667	18.0	18	26	15.8
1943 ..	661	18.3	23	33	16.5
1944 ..	720	20.7	19	26	17.6
1945 ..	635	18.8	18	27	19.2
1946 ..	685	19.4	26	36	21.3

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered was 381 as against 341 last year.

Infantile Mortality.

Sixteen babies died before reaching the age of four weeks and eleven others succumbed before the age of one year. The deaths fall into two groups—those affecting the vitality and development of the child and may only be indirectly affected by preventive action, i.e. through better care and feeding of the mother, and those due to infections and lack of care and can be dealt with directly by instruction and education of the mother in mothercraft and domestic hygiene.

To reduce the infant mortality rate, the nation, the local authority, and the family must work together to ensure that there is a good distribution of food and a wage to purchase it, adequate housing and sound communal sanitation, and a willingness to maintain in the home a high standard of domestic hygiene and family care.

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	8	2	—	1	11	—	—	—	—	11
Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	4
Bronchiolitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Accidental Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
Congenital Deformity	2	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	4
Intra-cranial hæmorrhage	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Jaundice (Gravis)	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL ..	13	2	—	1	16	2	4	3	2	27

Ward distribution of baby deaths was :—North, 4 ; South, 7 ; East, 2 ; West, 10 ; Baswich, 4.

The following table gives the infant mortality for 1946 and for the previous ten years :—

Year	Births	Under one month		Under one year	
		Deaths	Rate per 1000 births	Deaths	Rate per 1000 births
1936 ..	395	17	43	24	60
1937 ..	467	6	13	14	30
1938 ..	493	21	43	30	60
1939 ..	516	24	46	36	69
1940 ..	540	18	33	30	55
1941 ..	596	12	20	26	42
1942 ..	667	25	37	35	52
1943 ..	661	17	25	30	45
1944 ..	720	15	21	20	27
1945 ..	635	19	29	30	47
Average for 10 years	569	17.4	31.0	27.5	48.7
1946 ..	685	16	23	27	39

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases.

	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns	STAFFORD	
			1946	1945
	Rates per 1,000		Population :—	
Live Births	19.1	21.3	19.4	18.8
Still Births.....	0.53	0.59	0.71	0.53
DEATHS.				
All Causes	11.5	11.7	10.8	10.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	—	—
Small-pox	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	0.00	0.00	—	0.03
Scarlet Fever.....	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	—	—
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	—	—
Influenza.....	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.15
NOTIFICATIONS.				
Small-pox	0.00	0.00	—	—
Scarlet Fever.....	1.38	1.33	1.64	2.20
Diphtheria	0.28	0.31	0.03	0.14
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.01	—	—
Erysipelas	0.22	0.22	0.17	0.32
Pneumonia	0.89	0.74	0.59	0.23
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.05	0.04	—	0.17
Whooping Cough	2.28	2.05	2.29	2.38
Measles	3.93	3.70	0.59	14.46
	Rates per 1,000		Live Births :—	
Deaths under one year of age	43	37	39	47
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	4.4	2.8	—	3.1
Rates per 1,000 Total	Births (Live and		Still): —	
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Abortion with sepsis	0.13	Not	—	—
Abortion without sepsis	0.06	avail-	—	—
Puerperal infections	0.18	able	—	—
Other	1.06		—	1.53
NOTIFICATIONS :—				
Puerperal Fever	8.50	7.63	8.43	7.65
„ Pyrexia				

The rates apply to the civilian population only.

The 148 Smaller Towns have resident populations of 24,000 to 50,000 ; Stafford is one of these.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH is given below :—

Causes of Death	Total	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	9	6	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic disease	5	3	2
Influenza	5	3	2
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	1	—	1
Acute infectious encephalitis	1	1	—
Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (Males only)	6	6	—
Cancer of uterus	4	—	4
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	6	5	1
Cancer of breast	2	—	2
Cancer of all other sites.....	23	18	5
Diabetes	1	1	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	53	25	28
Heart Disease	98	48	50
Other diseases of the circulatory system..	16	7	9
Bronchitis	28	11	17
Pneumonia	19	15	4
Other respiratory diseases	4	2	2
Ulceration of stomach or duodenum	3	1	2
Appendicitis	3	1	2
Other digestive diseases	5	3	2
Nephritis	18	9	9
Premature birth	12	8	4
Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	7	5	2
Suicide	1	1	—
Road Traffic accidents	4	4	—
Other violent causes	5	2	3
All other causes	41	19	22
TOTAL DEATHS	381	204	177

Ward distribution of deaths :—

North, 71 ; South, 110 ; East, 92 ; West, 84; Bas-
wich, 24.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

The examination of clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.), and analysis of water, milk, and foodstuffs are carried out at the County Laboratories, Martin Street, Stafford. The County Bacteriologist, Dr. Edwards, and the County Analyst, Mr. Jones, and his successor, Mr. Houlbrooke, have always given me their willing assistance and advice.

During the year bacteriological reports were received from the County Laboratory by the Medical Officer of Health on the following :—

Swabs examined for Diphtheria bacilli	.. ..	754
Other Swabs	.. .. .	10
Virulence Test (Diphtheria)	.. .. .	1
Blood for Agglutination Tests	.. .. .	9
Faeces	.. .. .	79
Urine	.. .. .	7
Pus	.. .. .	8
Cerebro-spinal fluid	.. .. .	3
Sputum for Tubercle bacilli	.. .. .	57
Biological Test (Tuberculosis)	.. .. .	7
Other examinations	.. .. .	11

Ambulance Service.

Two ambulances are maintained by the Local Authority. One for the removal of non-infectious and accident cases, the other for infectious cases.

Within its economical limitations the Ambulance Service has continued to serve the needs of the Area, which includes the Stafford Rural District. There have been complaints as to delay on certain occasions, but, on investigation, it was found that the callers had not taken the correct steps, i.e. telephone the Police. The service would be improved if a whole-time service was instituted with an attendant in charge, but, for the few urgent calls made, it would not be considered by many to be economically sound or easy to carry out under the present shortage of man-power.

Arrangements come to with the Men's Section of the Red Cross for the moving in their homes of bedridden patients at the request of the Doctor attending has been greatly appreciated by the sufferers and of service to the community.

The total number of journeys was 772, covering 8,710 miles. An analysis of the calls is set out below :—

Time of Call	Nature of Call					Others
	Public Assist- ance	Ill- ness	Infect- ious	Acci- dent	Matern- ity	
8 a.m.—12 noon ..	33	105	12	13	10	16
12 noon—5 p.m. ..	34	221	58	22	12	2
5 p.m.—10 p.m. ..	8	86	20	25	4	3
10 p.m.—8 a.m. ..	—	48	2	19	14	5
	75	460	92	79	40	26

The special needs of Hospital patients have been met by a Hospital Car Service. This is a joint effort of the Red Cross and St. John's Societies and W.V.S. by which patients are transported in private cars on payment of a small initial fee. Necessitous cases are helped by the Almoner. It has worked very successfully throughout the year, and has been the means whereby the ambulance is not so frequently tied down to a Hospital while waiting for a patient to receive treatment.

Isolation Hospital, Tithe Barn Road.

This hospital, one of three under the jurisdiction of the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board, serves the population in the vicinity, but can, and does, take in cases from other areas.

The Board have actively supported recommendations as to furnishings and equipment, and have carried out extensive repairs, and are gradually introducing central heating throughout the wards.

The following members of the Public Health Committee represent the Council on the House Committee :—Alderman Merrey, Alderman Mrs. Turney, Councillor Mrs. Welton, and Councillor Dobson. Alderman Merrey is Chairman.

Admissions from Stafford Borough were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	49
Diphtheria	1
Measles	3
Whooping Cough	1
Chicken-pox	1
Vincent's Angina	1
Streptococcal Tonsillitis	2
Other diseases	3
<hr/>	
Total	61
<hr/>	

Infant Welfare Centre.

The Infant Welfare Centre continues to carry out those duties for which it was designed. Attendances continue to be good (see table below), but, as intimated last year, it may well be that, with the general shift of the population, any further improvement in attendance may not materialise, and it may be necessary to await the development of sub-centres or the establishment of Health Centres under the National Health Service Act in the outlying districts before the problem can be properly met. An attempt was made by the Welfare Committee in the early part of 1947 to get over the difficulty by instituting a free bus service once weekly. This was continued for 21 weeks, but the response was poor, and the scheme was abandoned.

The Centre is open daily for Minor Ailments from 9 to 10-30, all day Monday and Wednesday for Welfare sessions, and on Friday morning from 9 to 10-30 for Diphtheria Immunisation. The Ministry of Food arrange for the sale and distribution of vitamins, etc., for mothers and babies on Welfare days. The Stafford Cripples Centre is open daily and is housed in the same building.

The following is a brief summary of attendances :—

	Average for previous five years.	1946.
(1) Total number of attendances during the year		
(i) by children under one year of age	6848	8180
(ii) by children between the ages of one and five years	3423	4365
(2) Total number of children who attended at the Centre during the year, and who, on the date of their first attendance were :—		
(i) under one year of age	431	461
(ii) between the ages of one and five years	55	18
(3) Total number of children under five years of age who attended at the Centre during the year and who at the end of the year were :—		
(i) under one year of age	382	385
(ii) over one year of age	689	888
(4) Percentage of notified live births represented by the number in (2) (i)	56.6	54.6

MINOR AILMENTS.—

ATTENDANCES.—1944	New cases	..	76	Revisits	140
1945	„	„	.. 93	„	.. 522
1946	„	„	.. 194	„	.. 598

Baby Day.

The following account of the Celebrations is contributed by Miss Birch.

“The Baby Day Celebrations were held at the Infant Welfare Centre, North Walls, on Wednesday, June 19th, 1946. At the commencement the guests were welcomed by Councillor Mrs. Robinson, Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

“The Blumer Shield, which is awarded to the child who has made the best progress during the year in spite of adverse conditions, was presented by the Mayor, Councillor Wallace-Copland to Alan Day. The winner also received a cup which had been given by Councillor Mrs. Robinson. Runners-up received Savings Certificates given by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. Mothercraft Certificates were then presented to 75 mothers by the Mayoress.

“Attendance Certificates for children with regular attendances at the Welfare Centre from birth to five years of age were presented by Councillor Mrs. Cotterill, vice-Chairman of the Committee. The first prize, a blanket given by Mrs. Aspin was won by Alan Ramsay. The runners-up received Savings Certificates, also given by the Committee.

“A short talk to the mothers was then given by Dr. Wilson who had judged the babies for the Shield Competition, and this was followed by an address by Dr. Binks.

“An innovation was a Punch and Judy Show, which was very much enjoyed, and it is hoped to repeat it next year.

“A vote of thanks was accorded the Mayor and Mayoress, and the Celebrations terminated with tea on the lawn served by the ladies of the Voluntary Committee.”

Ante-natal Care.

Medical Practitioners carried out under your Maternity Domiciliary Scheme :—

	1945	1946
Primary ante-natal examinations	.. 220	302
Secondary ante-natal examinations	.. 152	148
Ante-natal cases seen for a third time	.. 11	9
„ „ „ „ fourth „	.. 2	1

Total number of expectant mothers ante-natally examined and of cases post-natally examined :—

	Ante-natal	Post-natal
1944	241	62
1945	220	52
1946	302	57

The percentage of total notified births (live and still) represented by the total number of women.

	Ante-natal.	Post-natal.
1944	28.8	7.4
1945	27.9	6.6
1946	34.4	6.5

The above figures should be read in conjunction with the figure given below (Births Distribution) under District Nursing Association—Midwives, when it will be readily seen that the number of cases attending for ante-natal examination do approximate to 100% of the number of cases attended by midwives in the Borough, and thus the figure 34.4, given in the table above as the percentage of total notified births attending for ante-natal, does not represent clearly the position as far as Stafford is concerned.

Total.	Births Distribution.	Stillbirths.
844	Maternity Homes 390	
	Institutions 131	
	Doctors' cases 1	
	District Nursing Association—	
	As Maternity Nurses 126	
	As Midwives 196	3
		648

Of the total 517 ante and post-natal examinations carried out under the scheme, 265 were of insured persons, and abnormalities were discovered in 111 individuals at the ante-natal examinations. The respective figures for 1945 were 437, 222, and 96.

RECOMMENDATIONS :—

	1945	1946
Doctor to be present at confinement	1 ..	1
Further ante-natal examinations ..	171 ..	200
Specialist's opinion	0 ..	3
Admission to Hospital	1 ..	0
Confinement to take place in Hospital	0 ..	0
Dental treatment	33 ..	24

POST-NATAL EXAMINATIONS :—

Number of cases found to be abnormal in some respect	18 ..	30
--	-------	-------	----

It has been the policy of the Welfare Committee to encourage mothers to attend for their first general medical examination at or about the third month of their pregnancy.

EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS.—No change was made during the year.

The services of the Consultant were required on twenty-seven occasions, and were for the following conditions :—

- *1.—Home case. Multipara. Toxaemia of pregnancy
Diet and medical treatment.
- 2.—Home case. Primipara. Toxaemia of pregnancy. Diet and medical treatment.
- *3.—Home case. Primipara. Disproportion. No interference advised.
- *4.—Hospital case. Multipara. High forceps.
- 5.—Home case. Primipara. Malposition. No interference.
- 6.—See No. 5. Disproportion. Forceps.
- 7.—Hospital case. Multipara. Removal of retained placenta. Repair of parts.
- *8.—Hospital case. Multipara. Antepartum haemorrhage. Medical treatment.
- *9.—Home case. Multipara. Breech. Version.
- *10.—Hospital case. Primipara. Retained placenta. Transfusion.
- *11.—Hospital case. Multipara. Antepartum haemorrhage. Medical treatment.
- 12.—Hospital case. Multipara. Haemorrhage. Induction.
- 13.—Hospital case. Primipara. Toxaemia of pregnancy. Medical treatment.
- *14.—Hospital case. Multipara. Delay. High forceps.
- 15.—Hospital case. Primipara. Toxaemia. Labour induced.
- *16.—Hospital case. Primipara. Puerperal Pyrexia. Medical treatment.
- 17.—Home case. Primipara. Haemorrhage. Forceps.
- 18.—Home case. Multipara. Septicaemia due to septic focus in foot.

- 19.—Hospital ease. Primipara. Breech.
- *20.—Hospital ease. Multipara. Shock. Transfusion.
- *21.—Hospital ease. Multipara. Malposition. Induction.
- 22.—Hospital ease. Multipara. Fibroids. Forceps.
- 23.—Hospital case. Multipara. Haemorrhage. Medical treatment.
- 24.—Hospital ease. Primipara. Tuberculosis. Medical treatment.
- 25.—Hospital ease. Multipara. Deformed pelvis. Caesarian.
- 26.—Hospital ease. Primipara. Retained placenta. Removed.
- *27.—Hospital case. Primipara. Fibroid. Medical treatment.

*These cases had been seen ante-natally by their own Doctor under the domiciliary scheme.

HOME HELPS.—The Ministry of Health has fully appreciated the usefulness of a well run Home Help service, but again this year it has not been found possible to re-introduce Home Helps because Industry has prior claim on all the most suitable women.

A scheme appointing four women Home Helps came into operation in January, 1947.

Maternity Beds.

The Council assumed financial responsibility in respect of 18 cases which had been admitted to Institutions on account of unsatisfactory home conditions in accordance with the agreement with the County Public Assistance Committee. The whole cost was recoverable from the patient in 15 cases and part of the cost in the remainder.

There are in the Borough maternity beds distributed as follows :—

Burton House	..	..	..	12
Marston Road Hospital	..	..		5
Private Nursing Homes	..	..		13

521 babies were born in Nursing Homes, etc.—approximately 61% of all babies born in the Borough. This number, if all beds were in use, could be extended to 600 without any limitation of the lying-in period.

Health Visiting.

Number of visits paid during the year by the Health Visitors :—

					Average for previous five years.	1946
To expectant mothers :—						
First visits	..	..	..	..	96	70
Total visits	..	..	..	..	161	120
To children under one year of age :—						
First visits	..	..	..	..	619	623
Total visits	..	..	..	..	1991	2287
To children between the ages of						
one and five years	..	..	..	..	3492	2467
Inquiries into infant deaths	..	..	..	..	26	19
Inquiries into stillbirths	..	..	..	..	14	18
Unclassified visits	..	..	..	..	206	1097

Last year I referred to the inadequate number of Home Visits paid by the Health Visitors, and how necessary it was that this part of Welfare Work should be carried out thoroughly. I am glad to say that the position is now somewhat better as an additional Health Visitor was appointed in October, 1946.

Frequent references have been made as to the place which Health Visitors will take when the new Health Service Act comes into operation. There can be little doubt that they will form the basis of the structure which will be designed by the new Local Health Authorities to meet the needs of the Domiciliary Health Service.

Infant Life Protection (under Part I. of the Children's Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932).

On Register,		Removals	..	..	..	0
1st January, 1946	..	4	Adopted	..	..	0
New cases	..	..	2	Over nine years	..	1
			On Register,			
			31st December, 1946			5
		—				—
		6				6
		—				—

There were 4 fewer cases on the Register than in 1945. The Health Visitors paid 39 visits during the year.

Dental Treatment.

The following report has been kindly supplied to me by the Acting County Dental Officer, Mr. F. C. Winter :—

“During 1946 the arrangements whereby the Dental staff of the County Council undertake the dental treatment of the Nursing and Expectant mothers and “Toddlers” resident in the Borough have been continued.

“The patients are recommended by the Medical Staff of the Welfare Centre, and are treated at the Stafford Dental Clinic.

“The following figures give the details for the year.

MOTHERS.

No. of patients referred for treatment	10
No. of patients accepting same	10
Brought forward uncompleted from previous year	3
Attendance for treatment	66
Appointments made	74
Appointments broken	8

TREATMENT.

Permanent extractions	93
Local anaesthetics	93
Fillings	7
Impressions	7
Bites	4
Try-ins	4
Dentures fitted	7
Adjustment to same	1
Teeth scaled	11
Sessions (half days) devoted to above	11

TODDLERS.

Number treated	62
Attendances at Clinic	62
Extractions (temporary teeth) ..	25
Dressings of silver nitrate	32
Advice given	3
Accompanied by parent	62
Sessions occupied	12

Supply of Milk and Vitamins to Mothers and Infants.

The Food Executive Officer has supplied me with figures concerning milk, cod liver oil, fruit juices and vitamin A. and D. tablets distributed. These figures applied to the combined district of Borough and Rural. The table, too, sets out the amount of vitamins available and the percentage collected by the mothers.

MILK.			Beneficiaries.			Beneficiaries.					
Special rate (liquid)			4261			Special rate (dried)			516		
Free (liquid)			37			Free (dried)			7		
			<hr/>						<hr/>		
TOTALS ..			4298						523		

The percentage of the 4,821 beneficiaries may be allocated as follows :—

Expectant mothers	9.64%
Babies (birth—1 year)	19.6%
Toddlers (1 year—5 years) ..	70.76%

Type of Vitamin	Potential take-up			Actual take-up	
	Expectant mothers	Children	Total	Expectant mothers & children	% of take-up in Area.
Cod Liver Oil	Nil	34568	34568	9696	28.04%
Fruit Juices	19500	112346	131846	52255	39.6%
Vit. A. & D.	4000	Nil	4000	1985	49.6%

The control of food and the provision of priority foods and vitamins to expectant and nursing mothers and their children has been accepted as a wise step on the part of the nation. There is good reason to believe that, among many other benefits arising therefrom, the marked fall in Maternal Mortality especially that due to Toxaemia is due to these measures. This reduction took place during a period of intense strain and shortage of medical and nursing facilities and poorer housing conditions.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Seventy-nine cases were under treatment during the year. There were 44 new cases, 12 cases were discharged, four attained the age of five years, and were transferred to the Education Committee, and three left the town.

The Welfare Committee provide this treatment free.

The cost to this Authority was :—

	£	s.	d.
Clinic	195	0	0
Hospital	175	15	5
	<hr/>		
	£370	15	5
	<hr/>		

The cases under treatment are classified as follows :—

Knock knees	33
Talipes	12
Bow legs	8
Torticollis	4
Flat feet	4
Scoliosis	2
Valgoid ankles	1
Congenital deformities	8
Paralysis	5
No abnormality	2

Maternity Home.

My remarks as to staffing difficulties last year apply also to the year under review, but with this difference—the domestic staff has been kept going by temporary and part-time workers, but the nursing staff position has been bad throughout the year, and recently (1947) has become so acute that the Committee have decided that the number of cases admitted must be restricted to 16 per month. For some months now (1947) there has been only two whole-time midwives including the Matron on duty, with a part-time midwife in addition. Should either the Matron or Sister for any reason cease to be available, immediate steps to cancel bookings will have to be considered.

STATISTICS.

Lying-in beds, 12.

- (1) Cases admitted, 210.
- (2) Average duration of stay in the lying-in wards, 14.5 days.
- (3) Number of cases delivered by doctors, 130 ; by midwives, 73.
- (4) Medical assistance was sought in 38 of the 73 cases attended by midwives.
- (5) Puerperal pyrexia cases, 3.
- (6) 145 babies were wholly breast fed on leaving the Home.

- (7) There were 5 stillbirths and 7 babies died within ten days of birth. In all cases a Doctor was in attendance.
- (7a) Emergency cases admitted, 4. Cancellations, 27.
- (8) Outside cases numbered 25.
- (9) Assessment on booking averaged £6 10s. 5d. per week per case as against £5 8s. for 1945.

Riverside Day Nursery.

In addition to those cases which obviously need the services of a Day Nursery, such as widows and unmarried women, there are other reasons, of which the following are examples.

Arguments for and against Day Nurseries will continue until every woman desires to, and can, remain at home and fulfil her duties to her family without economic deprivation to her family. As long as it is a necessity that our women are taught to earn their living, there will always be a number of them who will remain faithful to that mode of life and will require others to look after their babies.

Again, opinions have been frequently expressed against the presence of children in Day Nurseries under five years of age on the grounds that they are thereby exposed to infection, especially catarrhs, and that children under the age of two years should not be divorced from their mothers, and lastly on the grounds of expense. Given a conscientious Matron, and an adequately trained staff, the advantages to children of certain groups of our population considerably outweigh the disadvantages quoted above.

Mrs. Moorhouse submits her report which is set out below :—

“The number of infectious diseases, etc., for the year 1946 were as follows :—

Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Impetigo	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Scabies	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
German Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(inclusive of 1 Staff)							
Mumps	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Skin diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

OTHER DISEASES :—

Jaundice	3
(inclusive of 1 staff)	
Heart murmur	1

REFERRED FOR TREATMENT :—

Orthopaedic	2
Ophthalmic	3
E.N.T.	2

“The work in the Day Nursery was carried out throughout the year, in a similar manner to previous years, except from the point of administration, when it will be remembered that, on March 31st the Ministry grant of 100% ceased, and the Local Authority considered the necessity was sufficiently great to justify the continuation of the Nursery service.

“Payments of mothers rose from 1/- per day to 10/- per week, and it is encouraging to know that there was no falling off of attendance numbers. In fact, as the year progressed, the numbers on the waiting list increased.

“Slight alterations were made as regards suitable cases for admission, as, in addition to industrial workers and widows’ children, temporary admissions were made of the children of mothers during confinement, and during sickness in the home, and other odd cases of emergency.

“Medical Inspections have been continued for the children each week.

“The training of Students continued, but with some alteration as to the methods in which they were given lectures. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, have combined to form a Joint Board which is responsible for the regulations which govern the training and examining of Students for the National Nurses’ Certificate, previously called, the Nursery Nurses’ Diploma. The new scheme of training consists of practical training in the Nurseries themselves, and further education in vocational and general subjects, the arrangements of the latter being undertaken by the Local Education Authority.

“One candidate only, sat for her certificate for the year and was successful.

“The end of the year drew to a close with the usual Christmas festivities. The children enjoyed their Christmas Party, and once again the patience of the Warden was rewarded when the kiddies enacted a nativity play, after which, Santa Claus, portrayed by the Chairman, Councillor Murrey, gave each child the present of a toy.”

The average daily attendances (Mondays to Fridays only) were as follows :—

Month	(50 places).	
	Under 2 years	Over 2 years
January	11	18
February	10	20
March	11	24
April	16	24
May	17	25
June	16	23
July	17	23
August	13	20
September	16	22
October	15	25
November	14	24
December	13	25

Supply of Sheets for Expectant Mothers.

Arrangements were made by the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Board of Trade, for Priority Dockets for utility sheets to be issued by Welfare Authorities to expectant mothers where the need for same is certified by the midwife who has been engaged for the confinement in the patient's own home. During the year 791 dockets were issued to 265 applicants.

Care of Premature Infants. Circular 20/44.

Of the 844 births notified last year, 49 Borough babies were returned as having been under $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. in weight.

For the same period, 12 babies died and prematurity was given as the cause of or one of the causes of those deaths, and, of these, 4 died in hospital.

The position as to the care of premature babies remains the same as last year, i.e. provision of special cots, etc., for use on the district, and the services of a Pediatrician for consultation, but no special Hospital accommodation is as yet available.

A table has been drawn up indicating the survival rate of babies of different weights born at home or in an institution or nursing home. Of the 49 babies born prematurely, 10 were twin babies, and, of these, six survived. Two sets of twins were born at home and survived.

Birth weight :—	Under 4 lbs.		4—5 lbs.		5—5½ lbs.	
	Born	Survived 1 month	Born	Survived 1 month	Born	Survived 1 month
Born in Hospital or Nursing Home	10	4	12	8	12	12
Born at home ..	5	3	7	4	12	11
Transferred to Hospital ..	1	0	0	0	—	—
	16	7	19	12	24	23

Care of Illegitimate Children. Circular 2866.

In my last report attention was drawn to the necessity of the Local Authority retaining its interest in the care of illegitimate children, and to the necessity of a closer liaison between the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare, who have undertaken this work on our behalf, and ourselves. It can be reported that this is taking place, and fuller and more frequent information concerning cases is now taking place. The need for this is obvious, for the very nature of the subject tends to secrecy, and it will require the utmost co-operation if all babies are to be traced and placed in safety.

Miss Nash, the Organising Secretary of the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work, has given me the following report:—

“During 1946, 26 unmarried mothers and their babies have been helped by the Diocesan Association.

“11 girls were sent to Diocesan Homes, of these 2 were only 16 years of age, and for that reason were kept for a period of 6 months, the average length of stay of the others was 4 months. Those girls who were able to remain in their own homes until the time of confinement were given help and advice especially concerning payments from putative fathers. In 2 cases we had to provide baby clothes and in 1 case advance the money for cot and pram. 8 babies have remained with their mothers and been absorbed into the girl's family—3, all coloured children, are in Public Assistance Institutions because their mothers are very young and unfit to have the care of them and it was impossible to find foster mothers or to have them adopted. 13 babies have been adopted, all but 1 of them

through the Association, which is a Registered Adoption Society. Very great care has been taken to ensure that these children have gone into good homes, and we are pleased to report that they are all doing well. 2 babies died soon after birth, in neither case was this due to lack of care on the part of the mother or of the authorities. During the year suitable homes in Stafford were found for ten babies born elsewhere.

“In addition to dealing with those cases in which the birth occurred during 1946, much work has been done among mothers and babies whose cases have been reported previously. 1 coloured child was removed from bad surroundings and placed in an Institution until other arrangements are made. In 3 other cases grants have been obtained to enable the mothers to make adequate provision for their children. 2 girls have married and their husbands have agreed to keep the children, but in another case the mothers had to decide between marriage or keeping her child; after a great deal of thought she decided on adoption.

“The Association is much concerned over the future of coloured children. In 4 of the cases mentioned above the putative fathers are Jamaicans and we are now dealing with another 6 or 7 girls in Stafford who are expecting coloured babies. The girls’ families usually object to having these children at home, foster mothers will not take them, and adoption is out of the question. For over a year we have been endeavouring to send a little boy to Jamaica as the father’s family is willing to take him. The Home Office is now taking action, and if we are successful in this case we may be able to get one or two other children placed in the putative fathers’ homes. For the majority, however, there seems to be no prospect of security or happiness unless the Government can take some action, and this will only come about if public opinion is aroused on behalf of these unfortunate, unwanted children.”

Royal Brine Baths.

The following report has been made by the Chief Clerk, Miss Rose :—

“Brine Bath treatments were given to 4,300 persons, and 8,000 bathed in the Brine Swimming Bath. A number of leading football clubs sent their players for this beneficial treatment. Last September arrangements were made by Dr. Davies, Rehabilitation Officer at the Staffordshire

General Infirmary, for the Brine Swimming Bath to be used for Rehabilitation purposes. 600 attendances have been made under the supervision of Mr. H. Baragwanath, Remedial Gymnast for the Hospital, and many patients have claimed great relief by exercising in the Brine water.

“64,000 bathed in the Fresh-water Swimming Bath. Instruction to schools was continued, and a record number of 12,000 scholars attended.

“Owing to the need for fuel economy, it has not been possible to open the Turkish department for Gentlemen. Washing Baths were provided for 34,000 persons.”

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Town Water Supply serves the whole of the Borough and a portion of the Stafford Rural District, the total area of supply being 40,000 acres with an estimated population of 42,000.

The Water Engineer states :—

“For the year ending 31st March, 1947, the total water consumption was 618,330,300 gallons, an increase of 10,983,240 gallons on the previous year.

“This represents an average consumption of 40.34 gallons per head per day over the twelve months.

“During 1946-47 the water supply to Silkmore Housing Estate was completed and mains are now being installed on the Rising Brook Estate.

“It is anticipated that work on the Doxey Estates will commence in May, 1947, followed by Moss Pit later in the year.

“The first stage of the extensions at Milford has been completed, i.e. a 33" dia. borehole 250 feet deep in which has been installed a temporary electrically operated centrifugal pump with a capacity of over 2,000,000 gallons per day. The whole of the water supply can, if necessary, be obtained from this one borehole. Further extensions at Milford will be undertaken during the coming summer.

“Water levels at both Pumping Stations are appreciably higher than normal for the time of year (April, 1947)”

With the exception of 12 houses which are dependant on well water, all premises in the Borough have an internal supply direct from public mains.

The supply has been very satisfactory in quantity and quality.

Samples are submitted by the Health Department to the County Bacteriologist monthly and the County Analyst quarterly. Their reports are tabulated below.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Where sample taken and date.	Count. On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.—colonies per ml.	Count. On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20-22°C.—colonies per ml.	Coli Aerogenes Content (presumptive coli)—per 100 ml after 48 hours incubation at 37°C.
1. Grey Friars. 4/2/46.....	5	8	Nil.
2. Milford Pumping Station 11/3/46	4	10	Nil.
3. Shugborough Pumping Station. 11/3/46.....	6	9	Nil.
4. Brine Baths. 11/3/46	5	8	Nil.
5. Milford Pumping Station .. 13/3/46	7	9	Nil.
6. Harrowby Street. 1/4/46 ..	4	6	Nil.
7. Woodlands Road. 6/5/46 ..	24	15	Nil.
8. Woodlands Road. 10/5/46 ..	2	4	Nil.
9. St. John's Road. 3/6/46 ...	5	8	Nil.
10. Milford Pumping Station 3/6/46	6	8	Nil.
11. Shugborough Pumping Station. 3/6/46.....	7	11	Nil.
12. Martin Street. 8/7/46	4	5	Nil.
13. Martin Street. 13/8/46	4	7	Nil.
14. Stockton Lane. 27/8/46 ...	9	12	Nil.
15. Queensville. 27/8/46.....	7	8	Nil.
16. Tipping Street. 28/8/46 ...	9	11	Nil.
17. Brine Baths. 2/9/46	4	7	Nil.
18. Exeter Street. 2/10/46	12	750	Nil.
19. Sidney Avenue. 7/10/46 ...	3	7	Nil.
20. Queensville. 7/10/46.....	5	8	Nil.
21. Martin Street. 4/11/46	4	9	Nil.
22. New borehole, Milford 13/11/46	9	14	1
23. New borehole, Milford 15/11/46	60	47	Nil.
24. Brine Baths. 5/12/46	7	10	Nil.
25. Milford Pumping Station ... 5/12/46	7	8	Nil.
26. Shugborough Pumping Station. 5/12/46.....	3	6	Nil.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.

	Parts per 100,000			
	Brine Baths 11/3/46	St. John's Road 3/6/46	Brine Baths 2/9/46	Brine Baths 5/12/46
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F ...	26.5	27.0	29.5	29.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0026	0.0010	0.0019	0.0028
Nitric Nitrogen	0.32	0.20	0.24	0.22
Chlorine	4.6	4.5	5.3	5.8
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F .	0.006	0.001	0.006	0.013
Appearance	Clear	(a)	Clear	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination ...	None	(b)	None	None
pH Value	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4
Free Chlorine			0.01 part per million	
Hardness before boiling	11.60°	12.00°	11.8°	15.5°
Hardness after boiling	5.80°	4.70°	6.5°	5.4°
Temporary hardness	5.80°	7.30°	5.3°	10.1°
MILFORD PUMPING STATION	11/3/46	3/6/46	5/12/46	
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F ..	34.0	32.0	35.5	
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Albuminoid Ammonia	Nil.	0.0026	0.0025	
Nitric Nitrogen	0.35	0.26	0.29	
Chlorine	5.5	5.2	7.2	
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F .	0.006	0.008	0.019	
Appearance	Clear	Clear	(c)	
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None	None	None	
pH Value	7.3	7.4	7.4	
Free Chlorine	0.075 part per million			
Hardness before boiling	13.40°	14.64°	14.8°	
Hardness after boiling	6.50°	5.10°	4.8°	
Temporary hardness	6.90°	9.54°	10.0°	
SHUGBOROUGH PUMPING STATION.	11/3/46	3/6/46	5/12/46	
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F ...	20.0	18.5	19.0	
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Albuminoid Ammonia	Nil.	Nil.	0.0015	
Nitric Nitrogen	0.18	0.11	0.15	
Chlorine	3.2	3.9	4.0	
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F .	0.004	Nil.	0.005	
Appearance	Clear	Clear	(c)	
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None	None	None	
pH Value	7.4	7.4	7.5	
Hardness before boiling	8.16°	7.84°	8.2°	
Hardness after boiling	3.90°	4.60°	4.6°	
Temporary hardness	4.26°	3.24°	3.6°	

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION—*continued.*

	13/11/46	15/11/46
NEW BOREHOLE, MILFORD		
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F	15.0	13.5
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil.	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	Nil.	0.0021
Nitric Nitrogen	0.05	0.06
Chlorine	1.5	1.5
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F ..	0.016	0.024
Appearance	(d)	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None	None
pH Value	7.7	7.8
Hardness before boiling		7.3°
Hardness after boiling		4.4°
Temporary hardness		2.9°

(a) Slightly opalescent, due to fine suspended matter.

(b) Metallic Contamination—0.08 Iron.

(c) Extremely minute trace of suspended matter.

(d) Large quantity of reddish brown suspended matter.

The samples taken at the Pumping Stations were of unchlorinated water ; the other samples were of chlorinated water.

The Laboratory reports that the water had no solvent action on lead in 24 hours.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The following new sewers were completed during the year :—

SEWAGE SEWERS.

Silkmore Housing Estate	12" diameter.	458 yards
" " "	9" diameter.	96 yards
Rising Brook Housing Estate	15" diameter.	102 yards
" " " "	9" diameter.	105 yards
		<hr/> 761 yards

SURFACE WATER SEWERS.

Silkmore Housing Estate	12" diameter.	335 yards
" " "	9" diameter	207 yards
Weston Road	9" diameter	270 yards
		<hr/> 812 yards

Sewage Disposal Works.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for the following note :—

“Having regard to the fact that the purification plant is seriously overtaxed, a reasonably good effluent, although not equal to pre-war standard, has been maintained. No effort is spared to maintain this standard but until such time as it is possible to embark on large scale extensions of the existing plant, or, alternatively, the construction of complete new works, the problem of satisfactory purification will not only remain but become increasingly difficult owing to the progressive increase in the volume of sewage to be treated.”

Closet Accommodation.

The number of waste water closets substituted by a pedestal type of W.C. was 36.

There are approximately 939 waste water closets in the Borough, 42 pail closets, and 16 privy middens. The drains of 180 houses are not connected to the public sewer but discharge into cesspits.

The number of stoppages amounted to 1,084 and 511 of this number were in connection with waste water closets.

When stoppages are found to be caused by rags or other unsuitable articles, the occupiers are warned by letter as to their responsibility regarding the use of closets and drains.

Rivers and Streams.

Frequent observations of the rivers and streams were made. The most serious pollution was by gas liquor entering a brookcourse which eventually discharged into the River Sowe. At the time of the report going to press, after numerous visits and investigations, we hope that gas liquor will no longer be discharged into this brook. The pollution by the effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works still takes place, and can only be remedied by new works.

The County Council take periodic samples of river water both above and below the effluent outfall of the Sewage Works and of the effluent water from the activated sludge plant. The following are the reports on the samples taken in May and November :—

	100 yards above effluent outfall		Effluent water		100 yards below effluent outfall	
	Parts per 100,000					
	May	Nov.	May	Nov.	May	Nov.
Total solid matter dried at 212°F	158.20	164.2	149.60	117.5	142.60	148.2
of which in suspension ..	0.20	0.2	1.60	1.0	0.10	0.2
Mineral suspended matter	Nil.	0.2	0.40	0.6	Nil.	0.2
Organic suspended matter	0.20	Nil.	1.20	0.4	0.10	Nil.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	0.0256	0.0444	5.7200	5.0000	0.3280	0.3440
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	0.0268	0.0270	0.2605	0.2005	0.0394	0.0474
Nitric Nitrogen	0.20	0.30	Nil.	Nil.	0.30	0.30
Chlorine	50.0	55.0	61.0	42.0	43.50	47.5
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F	0.280	0.400	1.280	1.360	0.380	0.480
Dissolved Oxygen absorbed in 5 days at 65°F ..	0.290	0.270	3.648	2.224	0.555	0.770
Incubation test	Satis- factory	Satis- factory	Putres- cent	Very slightly putrescent	Satis- factory	Satis- factory

Smoke Abatement.

Action was taken regarding two firms who were causing an excessive volume of smoke to discharge from their chimney stacks. Both firms took the necessary steps, and the nuisances were abated.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The tabular statement below contains the numbers and nature of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors with the number of notices served and the result of such notices.

	No. of		Notices.		Notices complied with	
	Inspections	Defects	Informal 1	Statutory 2		
					1	2
DWELLINGHOUSES :—						
Repairs to dwellinghouses	1187	302	153	6	106	6
Houses requiring cleansing & verminous houses	188	1	1	—	1	—
Sanitary conveniences ..	459	109	68	1	46	1
House drainage defects ..	734	91	78	1	68	1
Defective yard pavements	1	3	3	—	3	—
Receptacles for house refuse	355	114	78	6	36	6
Accumulation of refuse ..	50	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding	76	—	—	—	—	—
Water supply	43	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workshops..	16	5	3	—	2	—
Bakehouses	59	—	—	—	—	—
Lodging-houses	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses.....	861	—	—	—	—	—
Fried Fish Shops	46	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	4	—	—	—	—	—
Piggeries and Stables	44	2	2	—	1	—
Cowsheds	35	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	74	1	1	—	—	—
Shops or premises where food is sold or prepared ..	141	—	—	—	—	—
Cinemas	1	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke nuisances	32	1	1	—	—	—
Other nuisances	84	5	5	—	5	—
Closet stoppages	—	1084	—	—	—	—
Visits to infectious cases ..	219	—	—	—	—	—
Rat infestation	182	1	1	—	1	—
Unclassified visits	955	—	—	—	—	—
	5846	1720	395	14	270	14

Factory Act, 1937.

Sixteen inspections were made.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Council houses found to be infested..	41
Number of other houses found to be infested ..	38
Number of houses disinfested	79

The inspection of houses and disinfestation for vermin were intensified during the year.

Available supplies of D.D.T. and Gammexane made it possible for new methods to be tried out in the eradication of vermin. Before this report went to press practically all houses treated in 1946 were revisited, and, although a few houses were doubtful with regard to reinfestation, one must conclude that the method now used has been most successful.

All tenants that are allocated Corporation houses are now visited by a Sanitary Inspector, and their rooms are examined for any vermin infestation. A clearance certificate is then issued to the appropriate Department before re-housing.

The Health Committee requested us to deal with the refuse tips so as to control any infestation by flies, crickets, etc. In the spring the whole of the surface of the refuse tips at Riverway and Silkmore Lane are dusted with Gammexane powder, and once a week throughout the summer months fresh tipping surfaces are again treated with Gammexane. No complaints of flies, crickets, etc., were received from householders in the vicinity of the tips of nuisances that do arise from this source.

Schools.

Procedure has been the same as in previous years.

Common Lodging House.

The Lodging House in South Walls, which had been discontinued in 1944, was not used as such during the year.

Offensive Trades.

The three offensive trades on the Register consist of 2 rag and bone merchants and one gut scraper.

Rat Infestation.

Systematic control of the town against rat infestation was carried out. The number of complaints received at the office were very few. All premises treated in previous years were re-visited, and the amount of prepared poison eaten shows that a definite clearance of rat infestation has been made.

Quantity of prepared poison bait eaten by rats :—

Containing Arsenic	.. ..	10 lbs. 6 oz.
„ Zinc Phosphide	.. ..	22 lbs. 13 oz.
„ Red Squill	.. ..	12 lbs. 13 oz.

Total amount eaten	..	46 lbs.
--------------------	----	---------

Conservative estimate of rats killed during the year, 1,414.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The general demand for housing grows, and again this year a table (supplied by the Housing Manager) indicates this. The portion of the table referring to lodgers and sub-tenants may be taken as an index of irksome and irritating living conditions.

No. in family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Over 8	Total
Householders	1	95	237	252	134	69	27	13	9	837
Lodgers and sub-tenants	59	841	658	167	46	12	4	4	1	1792
	60	936	895	419	180	81	31	17	10	2629

Definite action has been commenced by the Council to meet the need of the aged. Plans have been passed and approved for the first six bungalows, and, further a body of citizens from the Rotary, Inner Wheel, and Soroptomist Clubs, in addition to Dormans' Sports and Welfare Association, have formed an Eventide Home Scheme to raise funds to purchase, equip, and staff a suitable large house to accommodate old people. The fruition of the scheme will depend on the rapidity with which funds become available.

It has been found that the pressure for housing is so great that when tenants from a low type of house are rehoused, the house vacated is immediately let again and the conditions we are striving to alleviate are perpetuated. This will continue until the pressure is lowered by new building, and, when this occurs, demolition must be enforced, or else the attraction of their low rentals will ensure their continued occupation.

At the present time minor repairs can be insisted upon by this department—major repairs and reconditioning have to await a more free supply of labour and material.

Mr. Higson, the Surveyor, has forwarded the following information :—

Silkmere Estate—This estate has reached an advanced stage, and in May, 1947, the following dwellings had been completed and let :—

Permanent dwellings	74
Temporary bungalows	100

In addition, contracts have been let for 193 permanent houses, of which 157 were in various stages of construction. It is hoped to let a contract for a further 24 dwellings shortly, thus completing the development of this estate.

Rising Brook Estate.—A contract has been let and work actually commenced on the construction of roads and sewers. Work was also actively commenced on the erection of 80 “Howard” type prefabricated two-storey dwellings. The estate, when fully developed, will accommodate a further 250 traditional type permanent houses.

Moss Pit Estate.—A scheme is in course of preparation for the erection thereon of 125 aluminium prefabricated bungalows. It is anticipated that estate development will be actively commenced in the Spring of 1947.

Greensome and Doxey Estates.—A scheme is in course of preparation for the erection thereon of 200 prefabricated steel two-storey houses. It is anticipated that estate development will be actively commenced in the Spring of 1947.

Adaptation of existing buildings :—

Silkmore Hall.—This property which was recently acquired by the Corporation, has been converted into four self-contained flats.

Gladstone Club, Bath Street.—On the cessation of use of these premises for Civil Defence purposes they were converted into two self-contained flats.

The Beeches, Stone Road.—On these premises being relinquished by the National Fire Service adaptation into two self-contained flats was put in hand. The work is now complete, and the premises let.

Houses undertaken by private enterprise :—

Completed	1
In various stages of construction ..	14

In addition, conversions of existing houses have been carried out which provide accommodation for five additional families.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Attention is again drawn to the increase of infections of the gastro-intestinal tract due in large measure to ignorance on the part of the general public.

Constant watch is being maintained by this department in the preparation of food for public consumption, but, until prepacking and wrapping are reintroduced to a greater extent, it is impossible to prevent contamination during the distribution of the food.

Special reference also was made to ice cream, and it is interesting to note that the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947, were brought into force this year. Although the Regulations are far from being in the form desired, and apparently not at all easy to carry out, they do constitute a beginning, and as far as practicable will be carried out by this Department.

Registration of Cowkeepers and Dairymen.

Milk producers entered in register 13
Producer-retailers entered in register 11
 of the above, 16 have obtained licences as
 Accredited Producers.

Wholesale trader 1
Retail purveyors of milk in the Borough .. 17
Retail purveyors of milk whose premises are
 outside the Borough 11

Entered in the Register are also 8 retailers of milk which is sold in sealed bottles.

The milk sold by the wholesale trader is heat treated.
The examination of samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli is carried out by the County Council. The following results were obtained from milk on sale in the Borough.

Designation	Total taken	Cleanliness		Phosphatase		T. B.
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Passed	Failed	
Tuberculin tested	6 (a)	5	1	—	—	—
Pasteurised ..	3 (b)	2	1	3	—	—
Non-designated ..	109 (c)	86	23	—	—	5

(a) No biological test on 3 samples.
(b) " " 3 "
(c) " " 36 "

Statement on samples of milk for cleanliness only, taken by the County Council, the milk being sold within the Borough :—

	Satisfactory	Not up to Standard of expected cleanliness.
PRODUCER-RETAILERS :—		
Milk from own cows	12	6
Milk from cows of other producers	8	2
RETAILERS :—		
Dairies within Borough	50	8
Dairies outside Borough.....	22	10

N.B.—One producer may be responsible for more than one unsatisfactory report.

Meat and other Foods.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.—During the year 24 licences were issued to fit and proper persons to slaughter animals for human food.

The following meat was found to be diseased or unsound :—

	Tuberculosis		Other Diseases or Injuries				Totals
	Bovines	Pigs	Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	
Carcases and all organs ..	38	5	22	2	5	5	77
Portions of carcases ..	17	1	25	1	13	9	66
Heads	67	1	33	—	2	—	130
Lungs	509	11	60	—	8	5	593
Hearts	40	10	18	—	—	4	72
Livers	127	11	950	—	511	6	1605
Skirts	49	—	7	—	—	—	56
Kidneys	8	—	10	—	—	—	18
Mesenteries	26	—	2	—	—	—	28
Udders	62	—	66	—	—	—	128
Melts	66	—	15	—	—	—	81
Guts	36	—	7	—	—	—	43
Tripes	51	—	15	—	—	—	66

The percentage of cattle (excluding calves) affected with Tuberculosis was approximately 12½%.

The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 33 tons, 14 cwts. This meat was disposed of by the Ministry of Food.

The number of pigs slaughtered is now very low as the licence issued for bacon curing has been revoked.

No. of cattle slaughtered	..	..	..	4,355
„ calves	„	..	..	2,043
„ sheep	„	..	..	14,257
„ pigs	„	..	..	751

Other food was found to be unsound as a result of requests by provision merchants, and 215 certificates confirming the unfitness of the goods for human food were issued.

Regular inspections have been made of the foodstuffs exposed for sale in the Market.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following premises are registered :—

Preparation of sausages, etc.	..	..	26
Manufacture or sale of ice cream..	..	..	43
Fish frying	..	..	20

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Vaccination Statistics.

The following figures for 1945 apply to the whole of the Stafford Union Area :—

Births registered	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	615
Successfully vaccinated	..	..	..						212
Insusceptible	..	..	..	..	..	..			0
Exemptions	..	..	..	..	..	..			360
Died unvaccinated	..	..	..	..					30
Removed	..	..	..	..	..	..			13

Infectious Disease.

Infectious disease has been of little moment during the year. Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, and Scarlet Fever were prevalent but not unduly so, and the type of attack was generally mild. Apart from three deaths from Pneumonia, no other deaths attributable to infectious disease occurred.

The table below, compiled from School returns, made available through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer of Health, includes contacts as well as cases.

	1945	1946
Whooping Cough	13	10
Measles	280	15
Mumps	219	—
Scarlet Fever	14	17
Diphtheria	1	1
Chickenpox	2	109
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—
Scabies	9	10
German Measles	57	1
Influenza	—	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN 1946.

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	Case Distribution as to Wards.					Marston Road Hosp.	Gen. Infirm.	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—25	25—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over	Removal to Isolation Hospital.
		North	South	East	West	Baswick																
Scarlet Fever .....Cases ... Deaths	58 —	13 —	8 —	19 —	13 —	5 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	5 —	5 —	8 —	22 —	11 —	1 —	6 —	— —	— —	— —	49 —	
Diphtheria .....Cases ... Deaths	1 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	
Pneumonia .....Cases ... Deaths	21 3	2 1	6 1	7 —	4 1	2 —	1 —	1 1	— —	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	2 —	— —	2 —	1 —	2 —	9 2	2 —	— —	
Polioomyelitis .....Cases ... Deaths	1 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	
Dysentery.....Cases ... Deaths	16 —	1 —	4 —	7 —	2 —	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	1 —	1 —	7 —	5 —	1 —	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...Cases ... Deaths	6 1*	1 —	— —	1 1*	2 —	2 —	— —	4 1*	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	6 1*	— —	— —	— —	— —	
Erysipelas.....Cases ... Deaths	6 —	1 —	— —	3 —	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	1 —	3 —	— —	— —	
Measles.....Cases ... Deaths	21 —	7 —	3 —	3 —	6 —	2 —	— —	1 —	2 —	1 —	5 —	3 —	— —	6 —	2 —	— —	1 —	— —	1 —	— —	3 —	
Whooping Cough ...Cases ... Deaths	81 —	9 —	10 —	17 —	32 —	13 —	— —	— —	11 —	8 —	9 —	11 —	12 —	28 —	1 —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5 —	5 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	3 —	— —	5 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	

*This death was not attributed to Puerperal Fever

Scarlet Fever.

There were 58 cases notified in 1946 as against 74 in the previous year.

There was more than one case in one family in 4 instances. There were no ‘‘return’’ cases.

Diphtheria.

One case only, and that of a girl aged 23, was notified. She had not been immunised.

Diphtheria antitoxin, available for the treatment of cases of Diphtheria, can be obtained free on request by a medical practitioner. Diphtheria prophylactic is also provided free, and is used for the prevention of the disease.

THE STATE OF IMMUNISATION.—At the end of 1946 it was estimated that 41.1% of children under five and 91.7% of children between five and fifteen had been immunised.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1946.

School	Immunised	Schick test		Children re-immunised
		+	—	
Riverway	—	—	—	1
St. Austin's.....	3	—	—	11
St. Leonard's Avenue	24	—	—	111
St. Patrick's Senior	2	—	—	1
Forebridge	13	—	—	21
Corporation St. Girls	—	—	—	6
„ „ Boys	4	—	—	—
„ „ Infants	11	—	—	29
Littleworth.....	12	—	—	10
Tenter Banks	23	—	—	16
Holmcroft	11	—	—	36
Stone Road.....	25	—	—	28
Girls' High School	—	—	—	1
St. Patrick's Junior	6	—	—	11
Rickerscote	3	—	—	11
Welfare Centre	237	—	—	47
General Practitioners	100	—	—	—
Isolation Hospital	5	—	—	—
Total	479	—	—	340

Since 1940 A.P.T. supplied by the Government has been used for the immunisation of children, but older children and adolescents receive injections of T.A.F. The latter is also now available from Government sources.

Every effort is being made to ensure that the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of babies reaching the age of one year is as complete as possible. Health Visitors

as a routine in their visits to the home enquire as to the state of immunisation of children there, and explain fully to the mother the procedure necessary for her to take. In addition thereto, every child receives a birthday card pointing out the advantage of immunisation, and where it may be obtained. This is followed up by a repeat birthday card on the child attaining its second birthday, if failure attended the first attempt.

Once annually, Infant and Junior Schools are circularised, and leaflets with consent form attached are taken by the children to their parents. Although the number of primary inoculations in the Schools are decreasing, the number of "boosting" or secondary inoculations are going up.

General Practitioners in the area receive material free.

Dysentery.

Sixteen cases were reported. Six occurred at the County Mental Hospital, and the remainder in private houses. These cases, when bacteriologically confirmed, were due to the Sonne bacillus. There were no deaths.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Four of the six cases notified were admitted to Hospital. Two occurred in a Maternity Home. One of the cases died from a cause other than puerperal fever.

Pneumonia.

There were twenty-one cases of Pneumonia notified with three deaths. Last year there were 8 cases with two deaths. These figures relate only to cases of Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia.

Erysipelas.

Six cases were notified.

Scabies and Lousiness.

As reported last year the County Education Authority carry out verminous and cleanliness inspections, but, for the Borough as a whole, a scheme is in operation whereby cases of Scabies are referred by their own Doctors to the District Nurses who treat the whole family with Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion provided by the Council. Last year 28 households involving 139 persons including contacts were treated. If necessary, bedding and clothing are steam disinfected.

If treatment cannot be carried out in the home, arrangements have been made for the reception and cleansing of cases at the Public Assistance Institution.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two of the five cases notified were children who had been admitted to the Public Assistance Institution from outside the Borough. One other case was admitted to the Institution, the remaining two being treated at home.

Tuberculosis.

Analysis of the new cases and deaths during the calendar year, 1946 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
25—35	4	2	—	—	1	1	—	1
35—45	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	7	1	1	6	3	—	1
Ten year average, pre-war (1929–38)	21.9	15.6	7.7	5.3	12.6	7.8	2.8	1.7

The death rates per 1,000 of the population were :—Respiratory, 0.25 ; non-respiratory, 0.03. Total, 0.28. This is the lowest rate recorded to date.

The “Balance Sheet” for the Register may be given as follows :—

On Register at Jan. 1 ..	161	Deaths	11*
Notifications	19	Recovered	1
Unnotified deaths ..	1	On Register at Dec. 31	175
Transfers	4		
Re-notified	1		
Informal notification ..	1		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	187		187
	<hr/>		<hr/>

*Includes one death which was registered in 1945, but the case was not removed from the Register until 1946.

NOTIFICATION.—There was one death from Tuberculosis of a person who had not been notified as suffering from the disease.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths was 1 to 10. In the event of death from Tuberculosis, unless it is a post-mortem diagnosis, the practitioner is written to, and the reason for non-notification is asked for.

The average interval elapsing between notification and death was $37\frac{3}{4}$ months.

Admissions to and discharges from institutions were notified as follows :—

	Admissions		Discharges.	
Standon Hall Orthopaedic				
Hospital	1	..	2	
Prestwood Sanatorium	3	..	4	
Groundslow Sanatorium	1	..	3	
The Limes, Himley	1	..	—	

HEALTH VISITING.—The Health Visitors paid 27 primary visits to tuberculous persons on notification and 68 subsequent visits.

Disinfection.

A Washington Lyon steam disinfecter is used for bedding, clothing, etc., which have been exposed to infection, or have been infested with vermin.

Lots of bedding disinfected or destroyed ..	28
Houses disinfected after infectious disease ..	14

MORTUARY.

Bodies dealt with at the Public Mortuary are classified as follows :—

Borough residents	12
Non-residents who died in the Borough ..	0
Brought in from outside Borough	3
Non-civilians	1
	—
	16
	—
Post-mortem examinations	8

PUBLIC HEALTH PROPAGANDA.

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee has from time to time taken the opportunity of presenting to the Council and the Press short statements dealing with Health Subjects, e.g. Diphtheria Immunisation, Ice Cream, and Rat Destruction.

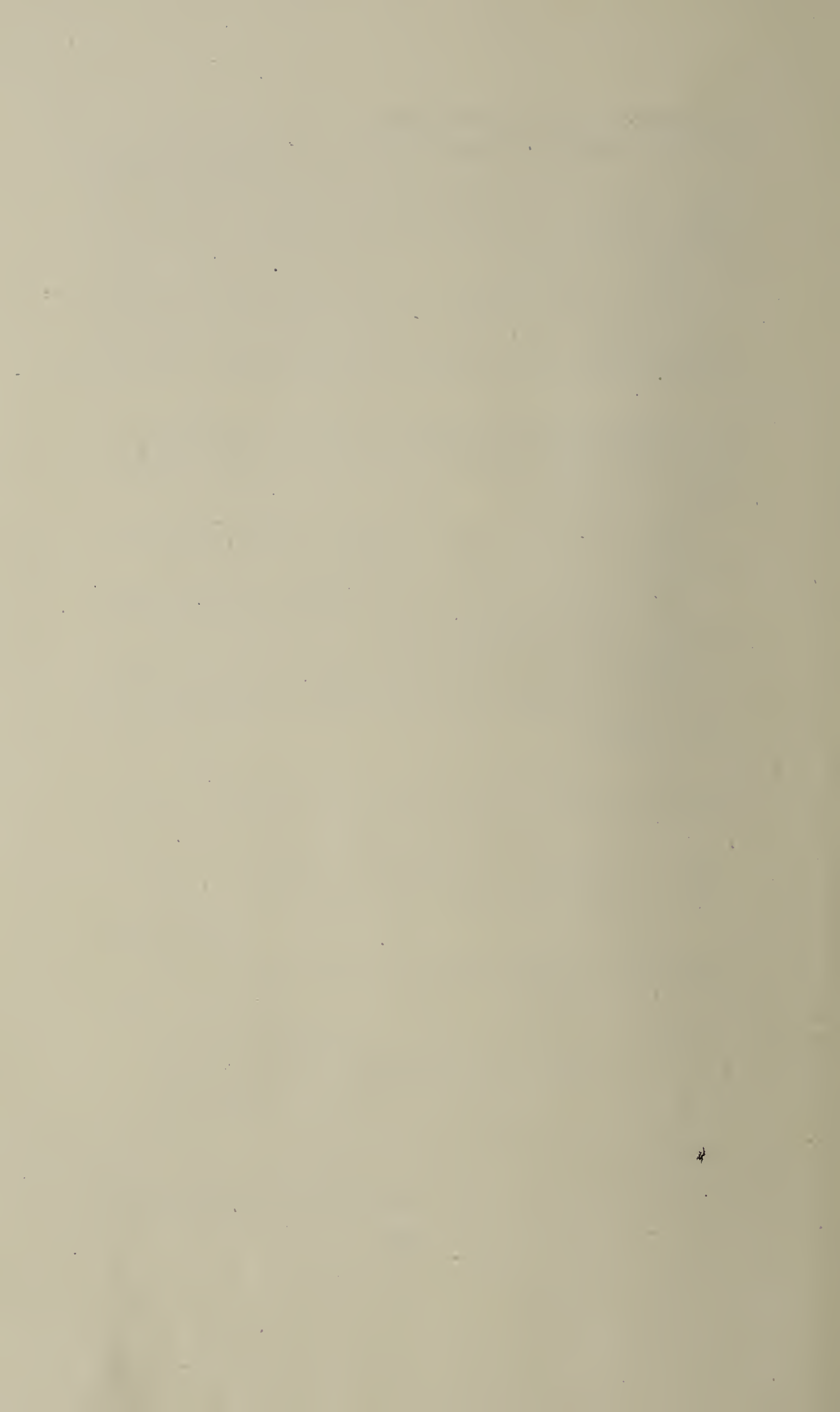
Stafford participated in the Ministry of Health's local immunisation publicity campaign in association with the County Council. Birthday cards as to immunisation are very successful, and, if no response is forthcoming, a further card is sent on the child's second birthday.

On Baby Day opportunity is taken to ventilate subjects which are of interest, and reports of the speeches made by the judge and Medical Officer of Health are published in the press.

Posters from the Central Council for Health Education are displayed and regularly renewed.

Short articles have been submitted to the local press, and talks have been given to various local organisations by members of the staff and myself.

There is no doubt that talks on the wireless and films shown in the various cinemas from time to time have had a good effect.



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